

UNEQUAL TAXATION

Present System of Assessing Property Detrimental.

VALUATION UNDERESTIMATED

Property Unequally Assessed That Should Bear More of the Burdens, While the Homes of Poor Should Not Bear Unnecessary Burdens.

There is a matter of considerable importance to the city of Astoria and Clatsop county that should require the attention of the county court, and that is the system of assessing property in the city and county. An effort is made, so it is claimed, to assess all property, both real and personal at about one-third of its actual cash value. The assessor has to rely upon the statements furnished him by the people, especially in the value of a stock of goods. In the assessment of real property the judgment of the assessor is the criterion for establishing values. The present system is entirely wrong and injurious to the city and county.

In Josephine county the county court has instructed the assessor to assess all property at its actual cash value. The advantage of this will be a decrease in the annual tax levy. Instead of levying 50 mills upon a one-third assessment basis, it will only require about 20 mills upon an actual cash basis. People coming to a community to locate or invest invariably inquire what is the tax levy. When they are informed that it is 5 per cent they are scared out. It makes no difference if it is explained that property is only assessed at one-third of its actual cash value, it is the amount of the levy that influences them. If the property of Astoria were assessed at its actual cash value, instead of the assessment roll, aggregating about \$4,000,000, it would amount to \$20,000,000 and a levy of 10 mills would produce as much revenue as a 55 mill levy and the county does not have to pay any greater amount to the state.

There is a large amount of real property in Astoria that is not assessed at one-tenth of its actual cash value, nor for the prices at which some of it has been sold. In Multnomah county the assessor will, according to the Oregonian raise the assessed value of property \$1,900,000,000 in order to reduce the tax levy, realizing that a low assessment and a high levy is a detriment to the city and an obstacle in the way of investment by outside capital. An erroneous impression prevails among some that an increased assessment means that the county will have more to pay to the state. This used to be the law, but it has been changed and the state tax levy is now based upon the per capita and not upon the assessed valuation of property. It will make no difference in Portland if the assessments are tribbled, it will not be required to pay any more taxes. The same is true of Clatsop county. If the valuation of the property is increased five fold, which it ought to be, the amount paid to the state will be no larger than at present.

Thus it will be seen that in many instances property is not assessed at 10 per cent of its actual cash value, and this is the reason why the tax levy in Clatsop county is so high. If the assessment was based upon the actual cash value, the tax levy would not exceed 10 to 15 mills. This would give Clatsop county a better financial standing; would be an inducement for capitalists to come here and invest. No one would be compelled to pay any more taxes than they now pay, and if the business property were assessed at its true cash value instead of 10 per cent it would relieve some of the merchants, farmers and owners of small homes of unnecessary and burdensome taxation and put it where it justly belongs, on the property that is bringing in a good income, but which does not pay its just proportion of taxes on account of the unequal assessments.

If property were assessed its actual cash value a levy of 1 mill for five years would furnish sufficient money to complete the new court house. Under the present assessment it will require a 2 mill levy for 12 years. During all of this time, the county is paying interest on the court house warrants. If the court house is completed at a cost of \$125,000, and warrants issued for the payment as contemplated, the last warrants will run for more than 12 years, and during that time the county will have paid out over \$50,000 in interest, or half of the original cost of building the court house. The figures herein stated are not absolutely correct, simply approximated, but are below rather than above. It is a matter that is worthy of consideration, and is a matter that the tax payers of Clatsop county are or should be interested in.

Civic Improvement.

There is a tendency among the property owners of Astoria to beautify

their homes, especially the front yards. One important feature is the discarding of fences and the building of low stone fences, and in some instances the inclosures are removed altogether. Robert Carruthers and L. Kirchoff are building a stone fence in front of their property on Exchange street, which is a decided improvement. Many of the fences of Astoria are more on the tumble-down order, and no matter how clean the yard may be or how beautiful the lawn, the effect is destroyed by unsightly fences. Another thing, the hoodlum kids of Astoria cannot keep their hands off fences or shrubbery in the yards. They pull the pickets off and destroy creeping vines. If the common council would pass an ordinance making it a misdemeanor for any boy to destroy the property of others it might go a long way in remedying the evil. If a boy is remonstrated with, he becomes insolent and impudent and no one has a right to thrash the hoodlums, as it will result in a row with their paternal ancestors. It is very evident that some parents have no control over their offspring, and no time to teach them a love for the beautiful. As long as a kid can smoke a cigarette and swear, he imagines that he is a man, but if he only knew how disgusting he was in the eyes of respectable people, he might be induced to discard these hoodlum characteristics.

Doing Business.

The City Lumber & Box Company, Astoria, has been awarded the contract for furnishing 800,000 feet of lumber for the Columbia river jetty. The specifications call for a large quantity of timbers 12x16 and 12x14, 36 feet long, and a quantity of shorter lengths, and also 22,500 railroad ties. This is to be made in three deliveries, April 25, May 15 and June 15. A portion of the first delivery has already been made. Manager John Nordstrom states that, although the new company has only been in existence three months it has accomplished even more than was expected, and he feels very hopeful of its practical usefulness for the future.

Along the Water Front.

The steamer North Star, which will be used as a cannery tender for the Alaska Fishermen's Packing Company, sailed for Bristol Bay yesterday.

The German ship Aragon left yesterday for the orient with a general cargo, most of which was flour consigned to Japan.

The steamer Cascade is due to arrive from San Francisco this morning.

The steamer F. H. Leggett is due from San Francisco today.

The steamer Redondo is due from San Francisco Sunday.

Baseball Scores.

Tacoma—Seattle 0, Tacoma 6.
Portland—Los Angeles 1, Portland 2.
San Francisco—Oakland 3, San Francisco 1.

Frightful Suffering Relieved.

Suffering frightfully from the virulent poisons of undigested food, C. G. Grayson, of Lula, Miss., took Dr. King's New Life Pills, "with the result," he writes, "that I was cured." All stomach and bowel disorders give way to their tonic-laxative properties. 25c at Chas. Rogers' drug store, guaranteed.

Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea is positive, never nauseates or upsets the stomach. Cleanses and purifies the entire system. A great blessing to suffering humanity. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. Dr. C. E. Linton's drug store.

W. J. Hess has opened the cleanest and best appointed restaurant in Astoria at 120 Eleventh street. The best the market, and the promptest service.

HATS

Trimmed Free

MRS. R. INGLETON,

656 Commercial St.
Welch Block, Astoria.

has on display

FOR EASTER

an elegant line of Ladies' and Children's Trimmed Hats in all the latest styles and shades.

My millinery business has grown to such proportions that I am compelled to make room for this department by disposing of my entire stock of Underwear and Notions. The

Closing Out Sale

now on, is a big money saving opportunity.

A nice line of hair switches and pompadours carried in stock.

FROM CHILDHOOD

To old age it is necessary to sustain the body for the mental strain. Physicians everywhere say that fresh cow's milk is the only safe substitute for mother's milk. We don't keep half the milk 24 hours. We deliver each milking as soon as it arrives, yet we charge no more. Choose either morning or night delivery and get Fresh Milk of The SLOOP-JEFFERS CO., 10th and Duane Sts.

NEW ORDER ISSUED

Shipment of Goods to Mexico and Central America.

BENEFIT OF THE INSURGENTS

Guatemalan Government Asserts That Arms and Ammunition Are Being Shipped to Hostile Countries for the Benefit of the Insurgents.

San Francisco, April 20.—An important order has been issued by Collector of the Port Stratton, which may for some time interfere in the shipment of goods to Mexico and Central America, and in some cases may delay the sailing of the steamers for ports in those countries.

The orders are that hereafter no clearance shall be granted to a vessel until the individual consigners' manifests are on file in the custom house. This order is the result of protests filed in the state and treasury departments by the Guatemalan consul at this port, who asserts that arms and ammunition are being constantly shipped on steamers leaving this port for Central America consigned to and for the use of the insurgents now fighting against his government.

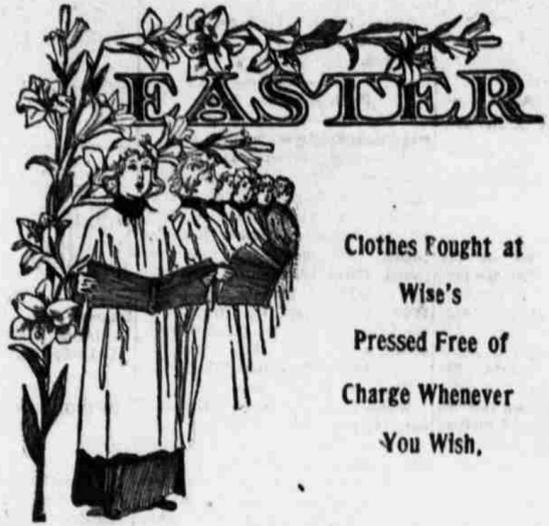
Bill Posters' License.

Notwithstanding the council passed an ordinance imposing a license on bill posters, and the fact that there is one or two in the city who are engaged in the business every day and have not taken out the required license, it is probable that some one will be arrested for a violation of the ordinance, that is, if the council intend to enforce the ordinance. None of the conditions of the ordinance have been complied with, which require the removal of bill boards from the streets of the city. If the city is so hard up it might raise some revenue by enforcing the ordinances.

Schilling's Best, so far as it goes, means comfort and ease and economy.

Moneyback; at your grocer's.

Easter Anthems



Clothes Fought at
Wise's
Pressed Free of
Charge Whenever
You Wish.

Nature invests everything in brightest hue. Hill and valley shed their sombre winter colors and the trees don their brightest leaves. Even the very atmosphere changes its crispness to a mild and more pleasant surrounding, hence the birds begin to sing and all mankind rejoices.

Why Don't You

join the happy throngs, who, recognizing Wise's Superior Quality of Clothes, take their pick out of our immense assortment and begin to look brighter, better and more dressy. Superb productions from the master tailor's hands

\$15.00 to \$30.00

Herman Wise

Astoria's "RELIABLE" Clothier.

RUSH

The order for that pair of Oxfords in the

New Shade "CHAMPAGNE"

This color has met with the approval of ladies who like up-to-date footwear and will be quite popular this season. We have ladies' high shoes in the same shade. They are sold at popular prices too.

YOU MAY WALK ALL OVER

the city but nowhere will you find a better patent leather shoe, lace or button, than we offer

FOR EASTER

FOR MEN:—High and low shoes, bylo toe, Goodyear welt, military heel, in tan \$3.50
Same style, higher grade leather 5.00
High and low shoes, nob toe, goodyear welt, military heel, lace, in patent leather 3.50
Same and other styles in higher grade patent leather up to 7.00
FOR WOMEN:—Oxfords, plain toe, button in patent leather and tan 3.50

PETERSON & BROWN

521 Commercial Street.

A shoe to fit,
And a shoe to wear,
Must be selected
With taste and care

ANDREW ASP, BLACKSMITH.

Having installed a Rubber Tiring Machine of the latest pattern I am prepared to do all kinds of work in that line at reasonable prices. Telephone 291.

CORNER TWELFTH AND DUANE STREETS.

Staple and Fancy Groceries

FLOUR, FEED, PROVISIONS, TOBACCO AND CIGARS. Supplies of all kinds at lowest prices for Fishermen, Farmers and Loggers.

Branch Uniontown, - - Phones, 711, - - Uniontown, 713

A. V. ALLEN,

Tenth and Commercial Streets. ASTORIA, OREGON.



Are your spirits drooping? Do you feel that tired feeling? Does your appetite need coaxing? Then your blood is poor. That is nature's way of telling you that you need our

ALTI-TONE

It is an ideal tonic, bracing, strengthening and exhilarating. It purifies the blood, tones up the system and will make you feel like yourself again in a week or so.

FRANK HART, Druggist.
SOLE AGENT

Corner 14th and Commercial Sts.

Is Your Bathroom Modern?

You cannot have too many safeguards for the health of family and self, especially the growing children.



Bad or antique plumbing is as dangerous to the health as good or modern plumbing is beneficial. The cost of renewing your bathroom with "Standard" Ware will in reality be health insurance.

We have samples in our show rooms and will gladly quote you prices.

J. A. MONTGOMERY, Astoria, Or.

The Palace Cafe.

The Best Restaurant.

Regular Meals 25c.
Everything the Market Affords.
Sunday Dinners a Specialty.

Palace Catering Co.

FISHER BROTHERS COMPANY

Agents The Linen Thread Co.

SALMON TWINE, COTTON TWINE, ROPE

Fishermen and Cannery Supplies